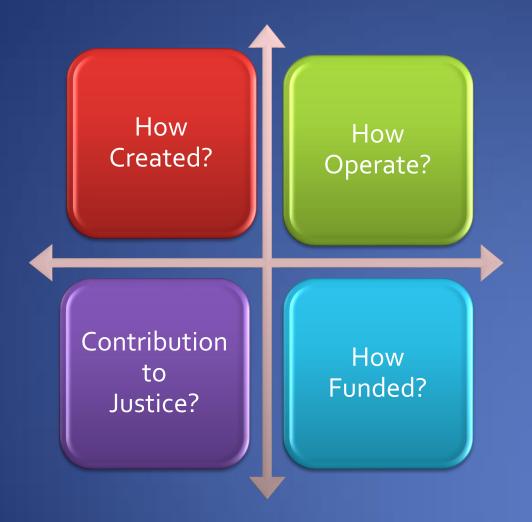


A. Elizabeth Keever
Chief District Court Judge (Ret)
Twelfth Judicial District – Cumberland County

January 20, 2015

Topics



Problem Solving Courts

• All Treatment Courts ARE Specialized Courts.

BUT

All Specialized Courts ARE NOT
 Treatment Courts.

3 Primary Types:

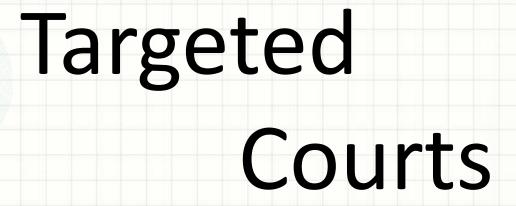
Treatment Courts

Targeted Case Specific Courts

Complex Case
 Management Courts

Treatment Courts

Therapeutic Courts created to address the underlying cause of criminal behavior.



Created to respond to case specific problems that adversely affect a community.

Complex Case Management Courts

Intensive case management courts created to efficiently and effectively address the multiple issues affecting a family.

Single Judge Assignment

- Accountability
 - -Defendant
 - -Family
 - -Court

HOW CREATED?

Legislative Action

- Treatment Courts (Funded and then de-funded)
- Family Courts (Funded and then expanded)

Local Initiative

Targeted Case Specific Courts

TREATMENT COURTS

1989 – Began nationally in Miami, FL

1995 – NC legislation for pilot courts

NC Treatment Courts -- GOALS

- Reduce alcohol and/or drug dependency
- Reduce recidivism
- Hold defendants accountable for behavior
- Move to a drug free productive life

Treatment Court Types

- Adult Drug Courts
- DWI Courts
- Juvenile/Youth Drug Courts
- Family Drug Courts
- Mental Health Courts
- Veterans' Courts

Adult Drug Courts

- Post conviction/deferred prosecution
- Chemically dependent, non-violent felony offender.

DWI Courts

- Convicted of second/subsequent DWI
- Sentenced directly or through probation violation

Juvenile/Youth Drug Courts

- Delinquent juvenile offenders
- -Substance abuse issues

Family Drug Courts

- Parents/guardians in danger of losing custody
- Substance abuse AND child neglect/dependency issues

Mental Health Courts

- Non-violent, criminal defendants
- History of mental health issues & noncompliance with treatment

Veterans' Courts

- Honorable/general discharge
- Post conviction/deferred prosecution
- Chemically dependent/mental health issues

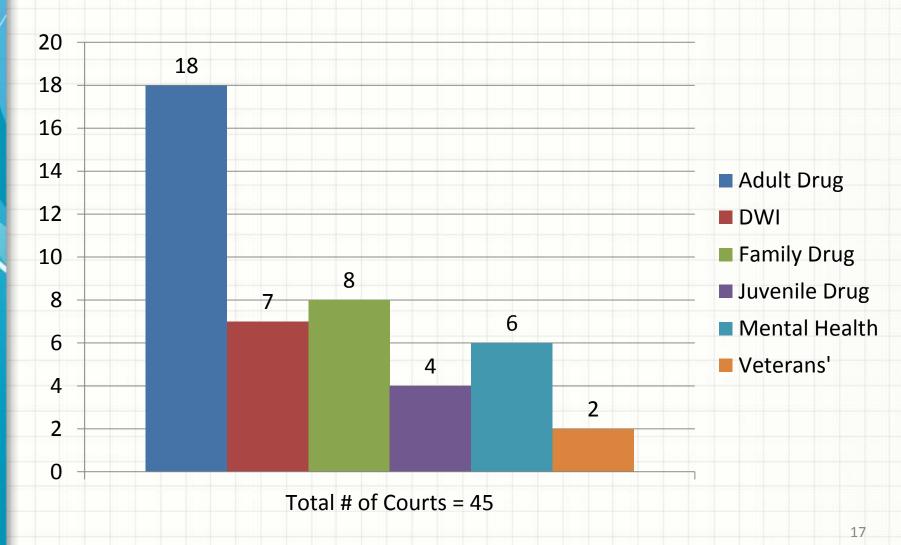
NC Treatment Courts (As of 1/1/15)

Total number of Treatment Courts – 45

• 82% are located in 11 districts.

Only 21 of 100 counties have Treatment Courts.

NC Treatment Courts (As of 1/1/15)



Districts >1 Treatment Court

District	Adult	DWI	Family	Juvenile	Mental	Veteran	TOTAL
5 th	1	1					2
8 th			2				2
10 th	2						2
12 th	1	1	1			1	4
13 th	1	1			1		3
15B	1		1		1		3
18 th	2			2	2		6
21 st				1	1		2
24 th	2						2
26 th	3	2	1	1	1		8
28 th	1	1	1				3
					TOTAL		37

TEAM CONCEPT

- ✓ Judge
- √ Case Manager
- **✓** DA
- ✓ Defense Counsel
- ✓ Probation
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Law Enforcement

Court Structure

- 12 to 18 month commitment
- Payment of restitution/fees
- Treatment/testing/curfew
- Bi-weekly court sessions
- Education/job programs

Accountability

- Single Judge
- Frequent Court Appearances
- Frequent & random testing
- Immediate sanctions/rewards
- Immediate consequences for failure

Contribution to Justice?

- Reduce recidivism
- Payment of restitution/fees
- Retention in treatment
- Increase education level
- Jobs obtained/retained
- Reunification with family

TARGETED COURTS

Created locally as needed to address case specific problems.

Targeted Court Types

- Domestic Violence Courts
- Environmental Courts
- Teen Courts
- Truancy Courts
- Child Support Enforcement Courts
- DWI High Risk Monitoring Courts

- Cases grouped by type
- Specific hearing dates/times
- Accountability
 - -Defendant
 - -Court
- Caseload/case age monitoring

FAMILY COURT

 1996 -- Commission on the Future of Justice and the Courts

• 1998 – AOC authorized to pilot 3 districts

Growth of Family Court

• 1998 – 3 districts (14, 20, 26)

• 2015 – 14 districts

(3A, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16A, 19B, 20A, 20B, 25, 26 and 28)

- Unified Family Court
 - juvenile and domestic cases
- One judge One family
- Intensive case management
- Emphasis on alternative dispute resolution
- Time standards for case resolution

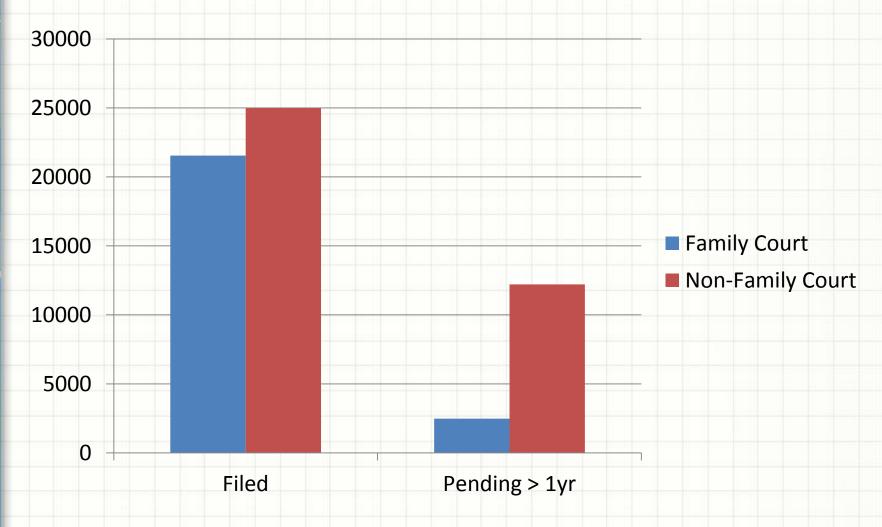
#1 COMPLAINT about the Court System:

DELAY!

Domestic Comparison Statistics (7/1/14 – 12/31/14)

- Statewide filings 46,531
 - Family Court Districts 21,452 (46.2%)
 - Non-Family Court Districts 24,989 (53.8%)
 - Cases pending <u>longer</u> than 1 year
 - Family Court Districts 2,477 (19.6%)
 - Non-Family Court Districts 12,212 (51.3%)

Family Court Domestic 7/1/14 - 12/31/14

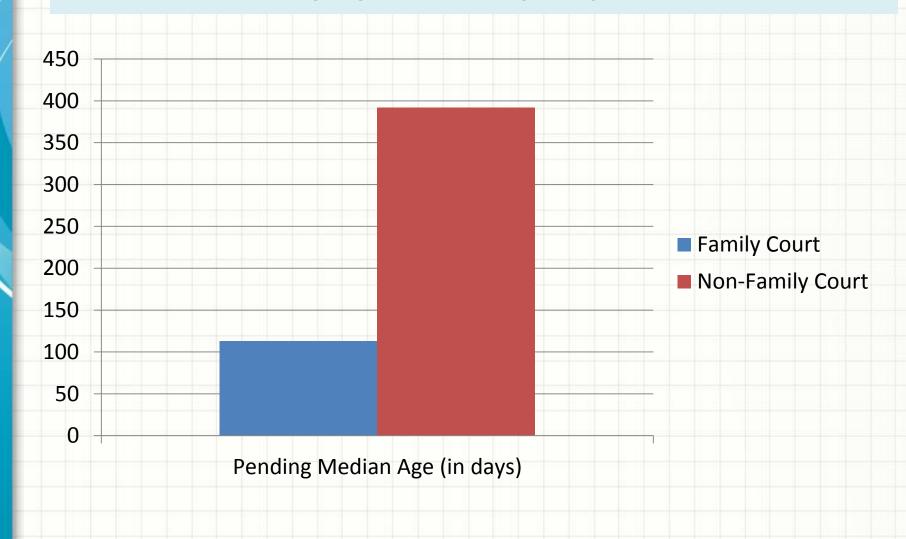


Domestic Comparison Statistics (7/1/14 – 12/31/14)

- Pending Median Case Age (in days)
 - Family Court Districts 113
 - Non-Family Court Districts 392

(A difference of more than 9 MONTHS)

Family Court Domestic 7/1/14 - 12/31/14



Contribution to Justice?

- Judicial stability & expertise
- Efficient AND effective case management
- Specialized services in custody disputes
- Earlier case resolution

HOW FUNDED?

- STATE Funding Levels for court operations
 - Treatment Courts -- \$0
 - Targeted Courts -- \$0
 - Family Courts salaries of case management staff (14 districts)
- Treatment Courts Operating with NO Funding (7)
- Treatment Courts -- Other Sources of Funding
 - Local (County/City) (29)
 - Grants (9)
 - Administered by County/City (7)
 - Administered by AOC (2)

Treatment Court Funding by District

	5 th	8 th	10 th	12 th	13 th	15B	18 th	21 st	24 th	26 th	28 th	Other
Local	2				2	2	6	1	2	8	2	4
Grant			2	3				1			1	2
None		2		1	1	1						2

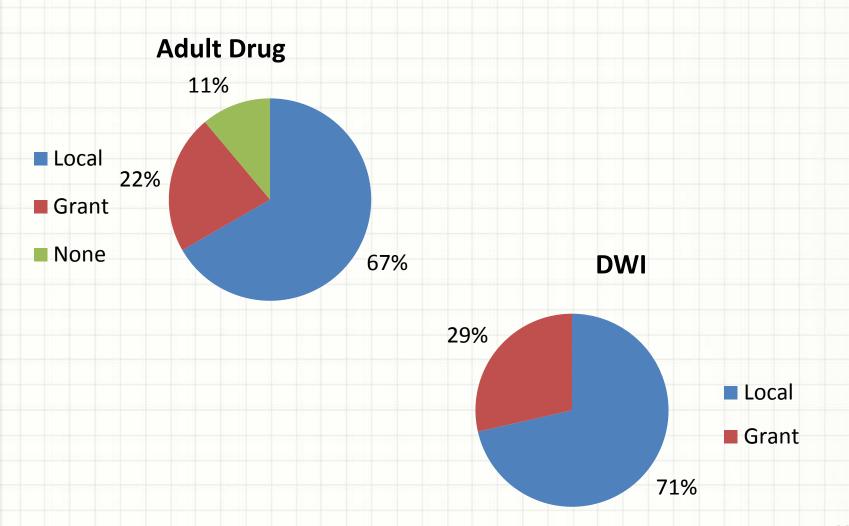
Treatment Court Funding

- Adult Drug Courts
- (18 courts in 14 counties)
 - 9 counties funded locally
 - 2 counties with NO funding
 - 3 counties funded by grants

(2 grants end 2015/ 1 grant ends 2016)

- DWI Courts
- (7 courts in 7 counties)
 - 5 counties funded locally
 - 2 counties funded by grant (both end 2015)

HOW FUNDED?

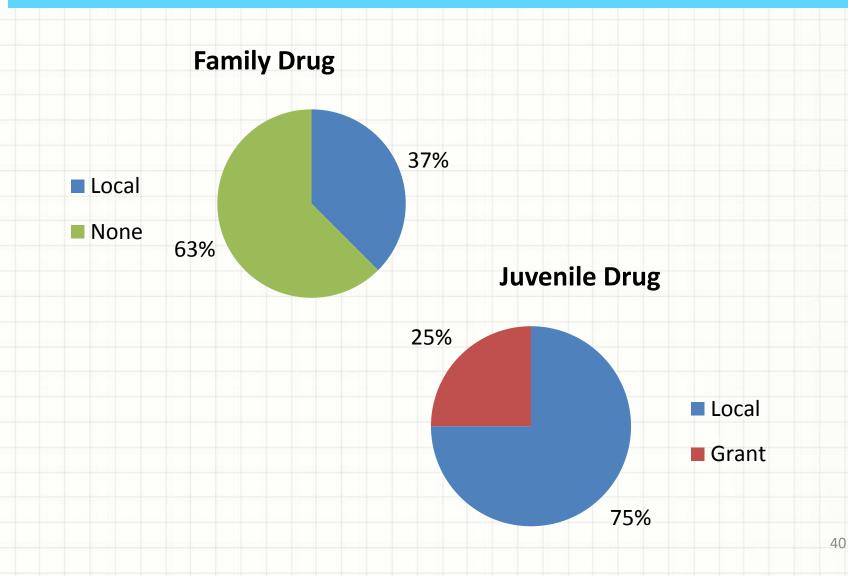


Treatment Court Funding

- Family Drug Courts
- (8 courts in 8 counties)
 - 3 counties funded locally
 - 5 counties with NO funding

- Juvenile/Youth Drug Courts
- (4 courts in 3 counties)
 - 2 counties funded locally
 - 1 county funded by grant (ends 2016)

HOW FUNDED?

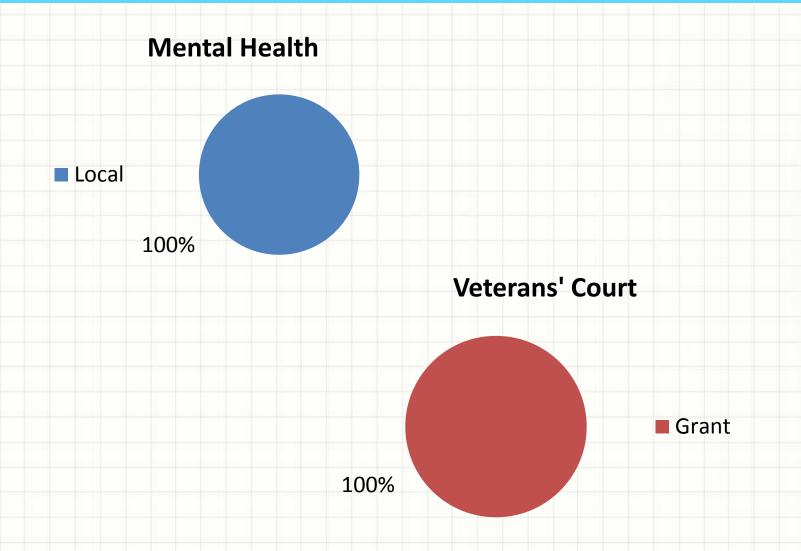


Treatment Court Funding

- Mental Health Courts
- (6 courts in 5 counties)
 - All 5 counties funded locally

- Veterans' Courts
- (2 courts in 2 counties)
 - Both courts funded by grants (both end 2015)

HOW FUNDED?



WHAT DO WE KNOW?

TREATMENT Courts are nationally recognized to solve serious problems

- Cost less than jail/prison cells
- Stop the "swinging door" of recidivism
- Remove children from foster care
- Pay victims restitution

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

FAMILY Courts are nationally recognized to solve serious problems

- Speed case resolution time
- Target specific family court issues
- Create accountability for the courts
- Increase stability

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Initially these NC courts were funded AND intended to be expanded.

